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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masami SHIRAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2872

Appln. No. : 09/978,542

Examiner:

Filed : October 18, 2001

For : A SURVEYING INSTRUMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98,
Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-73772, which was published on
March 17, 1998, along with English language patent family member U.S. Patent No.
5,877,892 to NAKAMURA et al., which issued on March 2, 1999. Applicants note that
these documents are discussed on page 3 of the specification of the instant application;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2000-97700, which was published on
April 7, 2000, along with a full English language translation of the same;

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U.S. Patent No. 5,796,517 to SENSUI et al., which issued on August 18, 1998; and
U.S. Patent No. 6,331,918 to SHIRAI, which issued on December 18, 2001.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents and enclosed translation. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/847,408 to SHIRAI et al., entitled "A Surveying Instrument Having an Optical Distance Meter", which was filed on May 3, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masami SHIRAI et al.

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January 17, 2002
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